

A NEW WARD SURGICAL DRESSING CARRIAGE.

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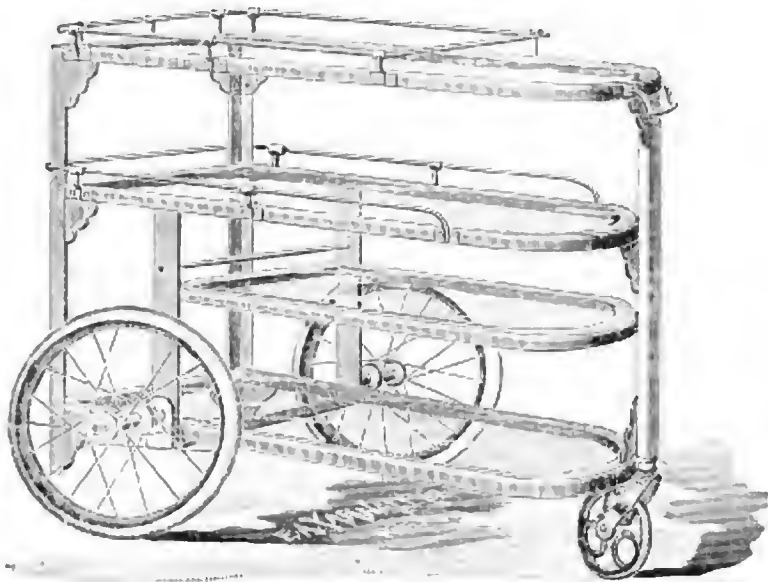
OF PHILADELPHIA,

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THE present is not only the era of aseptic operative surgery, but is also pre-eminently the era of aseptic hospital furniture.

All over our land, as rapidly as finances permit, the various institutions are substituting furnishings made of glass and iron for those previously made of wood. The needs of the different institutions, as well as the tastes and practices of the surgeons, vary so much that many different patterns of a single article are found desirable. The many styles of operating tables is an example. The accompanying sketch represents a ward carriage devised by me for the Philadelphia Orthopædic Hospital and intended to be used for ordinary surgical cases. The cut shows its general appearance. It is made of white enamelled one-inch angle iron and has four plate-glass shelves. The length is forty-two inches, and width twenty. The back is square while the front is a semicircle, the shelves being joined together at the front by a solid one-inch square rod of iron. The top shelf is thirty-eight inches from the floor and has on it a brass railing three inches high (the cut incorrectly makes it appear lower). This railing only extends about two-thirds of the way forward, leaving a free space in front. The second shelf, placed thirteen inches below the top, has a brass rail only one inch high. This rail also does not go all the way front. From the second to the bottom shelf, near the back, runs a side-piece of strap iron which adds stiffness to the frame and steadies the wheels. From this side iron the third shelf goes forward; it is about six inches below

the shelf above. The two back wheels are of the bicycle pattern, while the front one is small and turns on a pivot; all are rubber tired. On the top shelf can be carried antiseptic solutions and dressings in flat-topped glass jars. On the second shelf may be kept additional glass jars with bandages, towels, prepared gauze, sterile cotton, small glass boxes, etc.; these latter will be kept from falling off by the rail which is only one inch high. On the third shelf towards the back can be kept padding for splints, etc., and in front the pus basin and basins for solutions. At the back



Davis's ward surgical dressing carriage.

of the lowermost shelf there is room for the largest size pitchers, for solutions, and forward additional pitchers holding a gallon and a half to two gallons can be placed. On Kocher's ward carriage there is a rack of wire netting suspended above the top shelf for bandages. This has not been used because it serves to accumulate dust, which drops on the dressings beneath. No provision is made for refuse material, the receptacle for this should be kept away from the carriage entirely. As some surgeons desire an irrigation apparatus, that devised by Dr. Burton K. Chance

may be added ; it consists of a rod of iron fixed by clamps to one of the corners of the carriage ; when in use, one of the clamps is loosened, the rod raised, and so clamped. The receptacle holding the irrigating fluid is then hung from a hook at the top. If so desired, an irrigation tube may be attached to one of the solution bottles on the top of the carriage. The clear surface on the front of the top and second shelves is intended for placing the instruments, prepared dressings, solutions, etc., when in use. They are also of service in spreading ointments.

The use of a single support in front and doing away with the corners makes this part of the carriage particularly accessible. It is made by E. A. Yarnall Company, of this city.